Medical College, Jahangirpuri, which was found to be bogus, a case under section 120-B and 420 IPC was registered.

(e) The case is pending trial and is fixed for the production of accused persons on 26.11.87.

(f) The accused were adopting delaying tactics. Presently, they are lodged in Central Jail, Tihar in another case, and the Court has issued a direction to the Superintendent of the Jail for their production in the Court.

Activities of Sikhs in US

3578. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sikhs in the United States have been lobbying for extending aid to Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether those who have been lobbying include Indian citizens; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to contain the campaign directed against India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government are not aware of any general lobbying by the Sikh community in the USA in support of US aid to Pakistan. There have, however, been isolated instances when some individuals have expressed support for the transfer of AWACS to Pakistan.

(b) Government are not aware of the citizenship of these individuals.

(c) As seen, these are the activities of only a few individuals Government have taken steps to counter any distortions of India's policies and image.

Committing of suicides by birds at Jatinga Village in Assam

3579. SHRI KAPIL VERMA :
DR. C. SILVERA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that birds in a large number commit suicide during the months of September and October every year at Jatinga village in Assam;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted to ascertain the causes thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that scientists from different disciplines have concluded that the principal reason for this behaviour is Geo-magnetism which make the birds immobile at night; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government propose to take or have taken to save these birds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Birds have been reported to be attracted by artificial light during September and October every year under certain weather conditions, near Jatinga Village in Assam. The birds develop immobility after landing, stop feeding and starve to death, if not eaten up earlier by the villagers.

z(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) A study being conducted by the Zoological Survey of India has not as yet come to a firm conclusion as to the cause of this phenomenon. In the meanwhile, the following steps have been taken by the State Government to save the birds:—

(i) High towers with strong artificial lights are put up to divert

the birds from the light sources of the village.

(ii) Bird-watcher clubs of local educated villagers have been formed to seek their cooperation in protecting the birds.

Indo-Pak Sub-commissions

3580. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the Sub-commissions of Pakistan and India met during the last six months for betterment of Indo-Pak ties; and

(b) the details of subjects discussed at these meetings and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Sub-commissions I and II of the Indo-Pak Joint Commission met at New Delhi from the 10th to 12th August, 1987.

(b) Sub-commission I, which deals with economic matters, agreed on a number of measures for expanding cooperation between the two countries in the fields of planning, agriculture, communications, health, etc. Sub-commission II, which deals with trade matters, had a detailed exchange of views on the possibilities for expanding trade between India and Pakistan.

Medicinal Plants and Herbs in M.P.

3581. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that valuable medicinal plants and herbs are found in abundance in the forests of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in regard to their identification and availability;

(c) if so what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are being proposed to ensure that these plants are properly nurtured and utilised and do not become extinct?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have published floras of Pachmarhi and Bori Reserves, Raipur, Durg and Rajnandgaon. Flora of Bilaspur has been compiled. These include medicinal plants and herbs. Medicinal plants in Bastar district have been identified under the ethnobotanical study undertaken by the BSI.

(d) Steps taken include:

— Regulation of trade and commerce in endangered species of flora under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

— Cultivation of some rare plants of medicinal importance in the Indian Botanic Garden of BSI and Experimental Gardens located at different parts of the country.

— Scientific propagation of medicinal plants by organisations under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

— Implementation of a scheme of Captive Breeding of Endangered Plant Species by BSI.

— Protection of threatened species of plants in Wildlife Sanctuaries.